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- 21.—*The Altar at Home. Second Series. Selections and Prayers for Domestic Worship.* Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1862. 16mo. pp. 336.

WE cannot praise too highly this manual of domestic worship. The services for each day and each of the special services are preceded by well-chosen selections from sacred poetry, from Holy Scripture, and from strictly devotional writings. The forms of prayer, furnished by a large number of contributors, and of course in a wide diversity of style, are all prayers, and not, as such compositions are prone to be, pieces of sacred rhetoric. They are remarkable for their simplicity, their evangelical spirit, and their adaptation to social worship. The book has one peculiar feature. The morning and evening services for each day, with the accompanying selections, are prepared with the view of making some one religious truth, idea, or sentiment the pervading thought, yet without excluding those general topics of praise and supplication which belong to all times; and thus the volume as a whole embraces the full and prolonged recognition of a large and edifying range of devotional subjects. We would warmly recommend it, as second to no other among the excellent aids to family devotion, which are now so many and so various as to leave none who have the will, yet not the ready words for the service, destitute of congenial offerings for "the altar" which ought to be reared in every Christian "home."

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- 22.—1. *Vermont Quarterly Gazetteer. A Historical Magazine, embracing a Digest of the History of each Town, Civil, Educational, Religious, Geological, and Literary.* Edited by ABBY MARIA HEMENWAY, Compiler of "The Poets and Poetry of Vermont." No. III. Ludlow: A. M. Hemenway. April, 1862. 8vo. pp. 241-340.
2. *The History of Cape Cod: The Annals of the Thirteen Towns of Barnstable County.* By FREDERICK FREEMAN. Volume II. No. 1. pp. 176. Boston. 1862.

THIS new number of the Vermont Gazetteer embraces the sequel of Bennington County, and sketches of the history of Caledonia County and its several towns. It pursues successfully the thorough, exhaustive method of which we spoke with commendation in our notice of the former numbers. We are struck with the richly interesting biographical materials furnished by towns whose names till now we had scarcely known. The Vermont pioneers were a hardy race; the exigencies of their new settlements developed strong and sturdy characters, and gave full scope for those individualities which make history piquant; and the

prosperity of their descendants has been won, and is maintained, by no natural advantages, but only through the heritage of strong bodies, vigorous minds, and brave hearts; while the influences that are fast assimilating the inhabitants of other States came later into operation, and are working more slowly there than elsewhere.

Mr. Freeman, we are glad to find, is commencing the publication of his second volume. The first number is occupied chiefly by the annals of Sandwich. It indicates as thorough a research as can ever have been devoted to a town history, and the materials, especially for the first hundred years, are rich and racy, illustrating an autonomy somewhat self-willed and obstinate, which made the people of the Cape often unwilling and recalcitrant subjects even of their own chosen rulers in church and state, and prepared them for the ready and bold part they sustained in the struggle for political emancipation. We cannot omit emphatic mention of the typographical accuracy and beauty of the work, which do great credit to the author's taste, and will, we trust, be suitably recognized by the many who ought as purchasers to relieve him of his generous outlay.

23.—*The C. S. A. and the Battle of Bull Run. (A Letter to an English Friend.)* By J. G. BARNARD, Major of Engineers, U. S. A., Brigadier-General and Chief Engineer Army of the Potomac. With Five Maps. New York: D. Van Nostrand. 1862. 8vo. pp. 136.

THIS is on several grounds a publication of great importance and value. General Barnard was on duty, as senior engineer of General McDowell's staff, in the battle of Bull Run, and we have here his own narrative combined with the official report of the commanding officer and the detailed reports of several who held commands under him. These, with maps drawn on a large scale, and filled in so as to designate every locality connected with the battle, enable the reader to obtain a much clearer apprehension of the movements and events of the day than could have existed in any mind till time had elapsed for the collation of different accounts and the construction of the shifting geography of the battle-ground. General Barnard's object in preparing this volume was, first, to relieve the affair of Bull Run from the obloquy which had been cast upon it, and to place it "in the category of well-planned and well-fought battles"; and, secondly, to make such representations of the national cause and of the motives and course of the rebellion as might aid in averting British interference in behalf of the Confederate States. There is an interesting appendix on "Routs